

# Schedule for Updating the Comprehensive Plan For the Town of Washburn, Bayfield County, WI

December 3, 2024 Update

[Current town comprehensive plan](https://townofwashburn.wi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/WashburnCompPlanJuly-2007.pdf) (https://townofwashburn.wi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/WashburnCompPlanJuly-2007.pdf)

[Updated county comprehensive plan](https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/209/Bayfield-County-Comprehensive-Plan) (https://www.bayfieldcounty.wi.gov/209/Bayfield-County-Comprehensive-Plan)

## Tuesday, June 4, 7:00pm

- Review the purpose of a comprehensive plan (see attachment on community planning PDF)
- Review the draft schedule.
- Review the 2006 community survey results (PDF)
  - Do the views expressed in the survey seem consistent with the current range of perspectives?
  - Can we engage our community without the time & expense of creating and conducting another survey?
- Of the elements that the plan addresses, what community qualities are most important?
- What future developments would dramatically degrade the qualities our community values?
  - Incremental changes/ Big developments/
- Are there ways in which the current plan has failed?

## Monday, July 8, 7:00pm: Issues & Opportunities, Housing, and Community Services Elements

- How have the actual population and household changes compared with previous projections?
- How should we view the relationships between our town, and
  - a) neighboring towns,
  - b) the City of Washburn,
  - c) the City of Ashland,
  - d) regional metropolitan centers?
- What community services is our town best able to provide?
- What community services are better located in urban areas?
- Do projected demographic changes call for changes in the ways housing and community services will be provided?

## Monday, August 5, 7:00pm: Agricultural & Natural Resources and Transportation

- The current plan identifies key qualities of the town as "rural character, emphasized by its rather large forested areas, its natural and water resources, and its rural residential qualities."
- How can the town best assure that the best agricultural, forestry, streams, wetlands, wildlife habitats and scenic resources are not lost?
- What are potential threats to groundwater quality and steps to assure groundwater quality protection.
- The largest minimum lot size for privately-owned lands in our town is 4.5 acres. Is that sufficient?
- Areas feeding to and adjacent to the town's trout streams are characterized by steep, unstable slopes that are highly erodible, both when disturbed and when runoff in the upper watershed increases. What measures could reduce the erosiveness of surface water runoff and reduce sedimentation of aquatic habitat?

Tuesday, August 6 (continued)

- Recognizing the cost of maintaining roads, the current plan called for emphasizing the easternmost portion of the town for paved roads and minimizing the density of rural residential development on unpaved roads near the National Forest. The town has not taken any steps to encourage such a development pattern. Is the policy still relevant?
- What transportation patterns and needs should we anticipate?

**Monday, September 9, 7:00pm: Economic Development, Cultural Resources and Utilities**

- The chapter on economic development identifies the forms of development that are most appropriate for the town and the section on cultural resources identifies historic resources in the town. Are there additional forms of development or additional sites we should consider?
- When the current plan was developed, there was no discussion of broadband internet service. The plan recognized the need to coordinate with utilities in planning corridors, but we did not anticipate Xcel's desire to double the capacity of its transmission line. How should we think about future utility services?
- Some communities have struggled with the development of large-scale solar fields or rows of wind towers. How should our town participate in expansion of renewable energy and energy storage development?

**Tuesday, October 1, 7:00pm: Land Use**

- Compare map of existing land use with 2007 map of proposed "Future Land Use."
- Compare the county zoning district map and existing land uses.
- Discuss approaches needed to retain forest and agricultural uses and to protect streams.

**Thursday, November 14, 7:00 pm: Meet with Planning Consultant**

- Meet with Northwest Regional Planning Commission consultant.
- Recommend town board adoption of public participation plan.
- Divide responsibilities to draft updates to chapters.

**Tuesday, December 3, 7:00pm: Review Chapter Revisions.**

- Review first drafts of plan element chapters.

**Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 7:00pm: Review Action Steps for Implementation Element.**

- Review revisions to planning elements.
- Assure that implementation steps for objectives are measurable, achievable, and realistically scheduled.
- Approve official public notice of March 6<sup>th</sup> public presentation and hearing.

**Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 7:00pm: Prepare Penultimate Draft Plan for Public Posting.**

- Finalize revisions to plan elements.
- Finalize the table of implementation steps.

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 7:00pm: Prepare Synopsis of Posted Draft Plan: Key Elements.**

- Prepare community presentation on key objectives of the plan.
- Assure distribution of the draft plan to interested parties.

**Thursday, March 6, 2025, 7:00pm: Public Meeting & Hearing on Updated Plan.**

- Community presentation & public hearing on draft plan.
- Recommendation to town board.